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PARASITES OF OHIO MUSKRATS

Parasites of the muskrat (*Ondatra zibethica*) have received considerable study, but little in Ohio. From March 20, 1943, to March 22, 1945, 70 Ohio muskrat carcasses were examined, most of them being obtained from trappers by Merrill C. Gilfillan, Leader of the Pittman-Robertson Muskrat Project in Ohio. The specimens were from seven localities: Lake Erie Marshes (28); Killbuck Valley Marsh (17, lacking liver and lungs); Walnut Creek (19) and Whetstone Creek (2), (Morrow County); Buckeye Lake (1); Little Scioto River, Marion County (1); and Union County near Marysville (2).

The trematodes found were: *Echinostomum coalitum*, *Notocotylus quinqueserialis*, *Wardius zibethicus*, and *Plagiorchis proximus* (Barker and Beaver, Journ. Parasitology, 1: 184-197, 1915). The nematodes were: *Capillaria ransomia* and *Trichuris opaca* (Barker and Noyes). There were cysticerci of *Taenia taeniaformis* and a number of adult cestodes,

mostly *Hymenolepis*, but others not yet identified.

The pertinent data concerning these are shown in Table 1.

Only one adult *Capillaria* was found in the small intestine; the remainder were evidenced by ova present in the liver tissue, identified in stained 10-micra sections of the latter. The presence of *Capillaria* ova was detected grossly by tortuous white lines on the surface of the liver. No adults were discovered despite careful search.

There was little evidence of pathological conditions. One muskrat contained a large subcutaneous abscess, probably the result of fighting. In another, from Lake Erie Marsh, there were nodules on the lungs; sections of the latter showed this animal was suffering from croupous pneumonia and had an adenocarcinoma of the lung.—ROBERT L. RAUSCH, Wildlife Research Unit, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio.

TABLE 1. PARASITES OF OHIO MUSKRATS.

Parasite	Location	Hosts infested	Number of parasites average; extremes	Percentage of infestation
<i>E. coalitum</i>	Small intestine	45	9.52 (1-81)	64
<i>N. quinqueserialis</i>	Caecum	34	8.91 (1-111)	48
<i>W. zibethicus</i>	Caecum	16	1.01 (1-14)	23
<i>P. proximus</i>	Small intestine	3	3.2 (2-220)	4
<i>T. taeniaformis</i>	Liver	4	.12 (1-6)	6
<i>T. opaca</i>	Caecum	1	.01 (2)	1
Adult cestodes	Small intestine	18	.47 (1-6)	26